

Achieving Goals

SCOTT HATT is a mechanic at Chester Service Centre. Scott began his education in 1953 at age six. He went to Marriott's Cove Elementary School, a one-room schoolhouse in Lunenburg County. He stayed there until he was 12, and then went to Chester Basin School until he was 15. Scott found mathematics easy but had difficulty with reading and writing. He failed Grade 4 twice. After completing Grade 6, he left Nova Scotia to go to Philadelphia for six months.



On returning to Canada, he found employment as a machine worker at a hardware plant in East River. He earned his mechanic's licence, but only after he took the test orally; he was unable to pass the written exam. Scott worked as a mechanic for several garages, and was self-employed for a while.

In 2001, Terry Bremner hired Scott to work at Chester Service Station. Terry knew that Scott could handle the mechanical part of the job. He also knew Scott would have trouble with the documentation and the computers. However, Terry believed that Scott had good interpersonal skills and would get along well with his co-workers. Terry began looking for ways to help Scott improve his reading, writing, and computer skills. A project was set up for Scott through the Workplace Education Program with the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

When he started the project, Scott set some goals for himself. He wanted to improve his reading and writing skills so that he could complete the paperwork at the garage. He also wanted to be able to use the computer to find out technical information about the vehicles he was working on.

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“At the end, I achieved my goals,” Scott says. “Now I can complete work orders without too many mistakes and I can access the computer for Technical Service Bulletins and other relevant information to the vehicles being serviced. I can also read and understand the information, which helps me in my work.” He admits he was nervous about using the computer but now feels much more confidence.

Terry is also pleased with Scott's progress and is satisfied with his performance. "Scott is now trying to work more independently and is much more accurate with his paperwork. He also seems to be more confident in his abilities."

Now Scott realizes that he is capable of learning new things. He is continuing to improve his computer skills with the help of his sister. He is also reading more than ever before. He enjoys reading the local newspaper and keeping up with events in his community.

Submitted by *Ivy Cousin*
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